

DETAILED ACTION

Terminal Disclaimer

The terminal disclaimer filed on 20 December 2006 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration dates of the full statutory term of the patent granted on pending reference Application Number 10/117,868 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ali Mireshghi (Reg. No. 58,726) on 18 November 2008.

This application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claim 2 and 36.

Replace claims 1, 16, 30, 32 and 34 with the following clean copies.

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Claim 1:

A method comprising:

performing, in a first service access provider, operations including,

receiving an access request from a client access device, the access request requesting access to a network, wherein a user associated with the client access device is a subscriber of a second service access provider;

establishing a communications link with the client access device to authenticate and authorize the user, including delivering an agent to the client access device, the agent operable to identify the client device configuration;

receiving client device configuration data from said delivered agent over the communications link during an authentication and authorization exchange, wherein the client device configuration data includes security setting status data received from executables operating on the client device;

transmitting the client device configuration data destined for the second service access provider, wherein the second service access provider is operable to process the client device configuration data and selectively grant the client access device access to the network based upon the client device configuration data; and

receiving an indication about whether the client access device is granted access to the network, the indication originating from the second service access provider.

Claim 16:

A system to verify configuration data of a client access device requesting access to a packet-switched computer network, the system comprising:

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a first service access provider, coupled to the packet-switched computer network, to establish a communications link to the client access device, including delivering an agent to the client access device, the agent operable to identify the client device configuration, via the packet switched computer network to receive, from the client access device, authentication information for a user associated with the client access device and to receive the client device configuration data from said delivered agent over the communications link during an authentication and authorization exchange, wherein the client device configuration data includes security setting status data received from executables operating on the client device; and

a second service access provider to receive said authentication information and said client device configuration data from the first service access provider, to process the configuration data, to selectively grant the client access device access to the network based upon the configuration data, and to originate an indication whether the client access device is granted access to the network; and wherein the client access device is a subscriber of the second service access provider.

Claim 30:

A machine readable storage medium storing a set of instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

perform, in a first service access provider, following operations:

receiving an access request from a client access device, the access request requesting access to a network, wherein a user associated with the client access device is a subscriber of a second service access provider;

establishing a communications link with a client access device including delivering an agent to the client access device, the agent operable to identify the client

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device configuration to authenticate and authorize the user associated with the client access device;

receiving client device configuration data from said delivered agent over the communications link during an authentication and authorization exchange, wherein the client device configuration data includes security setting status data received from executables operating on the client device;

transmitting the client device configuration data destined for the second service access provider, wherein the second service access provider is operable to process the client device configuration data and to selectively grant the client access device access to the network based upon the client device configuration data; and

receiving an indication about whether the client access device is granted access to the network, the indication originating from the second service access provider.

Claim 32:

A method to manage access to a network from a client access device, the method comprising:

requesting access to the network, the requesting involving a first service access provider and a second service access provider;

authenticating a user associated with the client access device in an authentication and authorization exchange, at the first service provider, involving an agent delivered to the client access device, said delivered agent operable to identify the client device configuration data, wherein the user is a subscriber of the second service access provider;

communicating client device configuration data to the second service access provider via said delivered agent, wherein the client device configuration data includes security setting

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status data received from executables operating on the client device;

processing the configuration data, by the second service access provider, and

if the user is authenticated and the verification response from the second service access provider indicates acceptance of the client device configuration data accessing the network via the first service provider, receiving a verification response from the second service access provider via the first service access provider.

Claim 34:

A machine readable storage medium storing a set of instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

request, from a first service access provider, access to a network, the requesting involving a first service access provider and a second service access provider;

authenticate and authorize a user associated with the request in an authentication and authorization exchange, at the first service provider, involving an agent delivered to the client access device, said delivered agent operable to identify the client device configuration data, wherein the user is a subscriber of the second service access provider;

communicate client device configuration data to the second service access provider via said delivered agent, wherein the client device configuration data includes security setting status data received from executables operating on the client device;

process the configuration data, by the second service access provider,

receive a verification response from the second service access provider via the first service access provider; and

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if the user is authenticated and the verification response from the second service access provider indicates acceptance of the client device configuration data, access the network via the second service provider.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims **1** and **3 – 35** are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The above mentioned claims are allowable over prior arts because the CPA (Cited Prior Art) of record fails to teach or render obvious the claimed limitations in combination with the specific added limitations recited in claims 1, 16, 30, 32 and 34 (& associated dependent claims).

The present invention is directed to a method a method performing, in a first service access provider, operations including, receiving an access request from a client access device, the access request requesting access to a network, wherein a user associated with the client access device is a subscriber of a second service access provider. The closest prior arts on the record, either singularly or in combination fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention of establishing a communications link with the client access device to authenticate and authorize the user, including delivering an agent to the client access device, the agent operable to identify the client device configuration data; receiving client device configuration data from the agent over the communications link during an authentication and authorization exchange, wherein the client device configuration data includes security setting status data received from executables operating on the client device; transmitting the client device configuration data destined for the second service access provider, wherein the second service access provider is operable to process the client device configuration data and selectively grant the client access device access to the network based upon the client device configuration data.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Longbit Chai whose telephone number is 571-272-3788. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Longbit Chai/

Longbit Chai Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2131
11/19/2008